

Ms. Helen Freeman, Information Officer
Military District of Washington
Fort Lesley J. McNair
Washington, D.C. 20319

3/30/81

Dear Ms. Freeman,

AMPE-AG-AM

Thank you very much for your letter of the 25th and the helpful enclosures.

I write further because from the records you provide it appears that there should be other pertinent records and because I hope you can locate other records that address what interests me and is not included in what is provided.

For your information, I seek what rebuts the current best-selling conspiracy theory of the JFK assassination in which an elaborate conspiracy, involving the Army, Secret Service and others is conjectured. My particular interest has to do with the autopsy and the period immediately before it and with allegations of a shell-game with caskets and ambulances, etc.

The records you provide reference to the ceremonial detachment, the funeral home and Arlington Cemetery but they hold no information on whether or not one or more caskets were sent by, for or with the knowledge of the MDW - not counting the casket used in Dallas and the one the Kennedy family later selected at the Gawlor funeral home. There also is no reference to the use of any hearse or ambulance for any such casket transportation.

The first record, which has no heading, is of 11/22/63, the day of the assassination. It has 26 numbered items. That item refers to a "fowl up" (sic) at Andrews Air Force base. No record explains this item. It can be inferred that reference is to a switch from the planned use of a helicopter to ground transportation. If there is any record or records addressing or perhaps eliminating this ambiguity I would appreciate a copy or copies.

Lt. Samuel Bird of the Joint Service Casket Team prepared a memo for the record on 11/27. (In it he misdated the day as the assassination as the 23rd rather than 22d.) Historically it is valuable. It accounts for two helicopters being present and for two casket teams and what was done when AFI landed. However, it holds no reference to any other casket or any ambulances. There also is an ambiguity, that General McHugh "ordered me to have my men clear the area." What the area was is not indicated. It would be important to know if this included all the area occupied by AFI. Author David Lifton theorizes that the Army conspirators spirited the corpse off the opposite side of AFI and flew it to Walter Reed for the hankypanky he alleges.

The undated After Action Report on the funeral states at 3a (page 2) that a detail assisted in transferring the remains to an ambulance for transport to Bethesda and that "the detail were airlifted" there to receive the remains there. It then states that "the detail transferred the remains to the Medical Center and remained there as security during the autopsy and preparation period." While the reference to the prepara-

period is quite helpful, that having been eliminated in his conjectured chronology by Lifton, how and where the detail or details provided security is not indicated, ~~XXX~~ nor is how and to whom the remains were transferred. Any other records, particularly any log or receipts, would be quite helpful.

On page 6 at (1) there is reference to "confusion" when AF 1 landed. This may be the foul-up referred to above, but this also is not certain.

Two useful sets of logs are provided. The third entry on the first page of the log of 19 pages refers to something I would like to establish having ~~about~~ happened, "Honor Cordon around aircraft will be handled by AAFB." If there was an honor cordon or any other kind of security entirely around AF1 that would be important to know in refutation of Lifton's conjecture that the body was snuck out of the off side. (At this point there also is reference to two escorts.)

Item 10 on page ^{makes} two reference to "ambulance members(wh~~o~~) would report to Gawler's Funeral Home not later than 1930 hours..." If there is any record pertaining to the dispatch of any ambulance or hearse that would be appreciated.

Item 20, dated at 1935 hours, states that the MDW Commanding General "is on his way to" Hq, MDW. If there is any corroborating record this can be important because of what is known to have transpired, involving him, before he left the medical center. This can be important as a time clock on the autopsy, one that diminishes the possibility of there having been time for any of the alleged hanky-panky. However, while there is no entry relating to his return, there is another item, No. 33, of 2345 hours, stating that he was en route from Bethesda to Fort Myer.

If you can provide any additional information it will help make for an accurate historical record and it might perhaps help in reducing the harm already done to a number of innocent persons. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg